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BY:

Victoria A. Jones

DATE:

11/29/00PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application
of Elke Bucha *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/417,534

Filed: October 14, 1999

For: INTERACTIVE SYSTEM FOR
PRESENTING AND ELIMINATING
SUBSTANCES



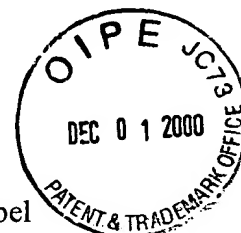
: Group Art Unit 1641

: Examiner: Gailene R. Gabel

: Attorney Docket

: No. 9282-6

: (D 1055 US)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 29, 2000 (Paper No. 10) in the above-identified action. This amendment is being filed by November 29, 2000 in view of the simultaneous filing of a Petition for Extension of time for two-months including payment of fees.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

✓
Please cancel claims 17-31 and 33 without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 32 are pending in the application.

Claims 17-31 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications. In Paper No. 10, the Examiner has required restriction between the claims of Group I (claims 1-16 and 32) which are drawn to an interactive system and

composition comprising the interactive system, allegedly classified in class 424, subclass 140.1; the claims of Group II (claims 17-25, 27-31 and 33) which are drawn to a method and kit for treating liquid and separating components using the interactive system, allegedly classified in class 436, subclass 178; and the claim of Group III (claim 26) which is drawn to a device which incorporates the interactive system into an apparatus, allegedly classified in class 422, subclass 48.

The Examiner takes the position that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as product and process of use and that the inventions are distinct because elimination or separation can be assertedly achieved by increasing molecular weight of the substance to be separated using substances coupled with polyethylene glycol.

The Examiner also contends that the inventions of Groups I and III are unrelated as different inventions having different modes of operation, functions or effects in that allegedly Group I solely and structurally requires an interactive system using two structural elements to create a stable interaction on a surface and Group II structurally requires incorporation of the system into a housing of an apparatus to operably function.

Further, the Examiner argues that the inventions of Groups II and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice as liquid treatment and separation can be allegedly achieved using known dialysis filters and apparatus.

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's bases for rejection and believe that the Examiner would not be unduly burdened by examining all claims involving the interactive system simultaneously. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application on the merits, applicants hereby elect in response to the written restriction requirement, without traverse, the claims of Group I drawn to the interactive system and composition comprising the interactive system for examination on the merits (claims 1-16 and 32).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned on any questions which might arise at the telephone number indicated below. Reconsideration and an early examination of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ELKE BUCHA *et al.*

11/28/00
(Date)

By:



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Enclosures